

Weekly Column for September 20, 2007

Today is a day that I will not soon forget.

This morning at 10 a.m. we held a lottery in which eight qualified families were seeking to have their name drawn out of basket with the prize being a brand new home.

You may remember that back in July we broke ground on six new homes to be built on Project Road, with the intent of selling these homes to low to moderate-income residents as part of the Troy Homes initiative. Those homes are now nearly complete, and today we had the opportunity to choose who would live there. It was an old-fashioned, names in a basket, pull 'em out lottery.

Without further ado, here are the winners, and the homes they chose:

- Robert Morrissey- 78 Project Road (Ranch Style Modular Home)
- Tarig Abdu- 80 Project Road (Cape Cod Style Modular Home)
- Tonja Owens- 82 Project Road (Ranch Style Modular Home)
- Christina Parnell- 84 Project Road (Ranch Style Modular Home)
- Dianne Kilkenny 86 Project Road (Cape Cod Style Modular Home)

Each of the above currently resides in the City of Troy, but will now own their home for the first time. We expect them to be moved in by Thanksgiving, and able to have friends and family over during the holidays. It really is a dream come true not only for them, but their families.

As each name was pulled out of the basket, every person had a different reaction. Some cried, some laughed, some just pumped a fist. It was a wonderful sight.

Now is not the time to rest on our laurels however, we are already planning for Phase II of the project, set to begin next year.

Phase I of the housing project consists of six new, single-family modular homes along Project Road. The lot dimensions for the proposed site are approximately 60'x100' a total of 6,000 square feet per lot. Existing city infrastructure from Project Road was extended to service the new homes.

This phase of the project offered two housing models, including four Ranch style homes, and two Cape Cod style homes. All models include basic starter home amenities as well as 1,056 square feet of living space, full basement, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining & living room areas. Exterior amenities include asphalt paved driveway, front and rear porch with concrete steps, front sidewalk, landscaping, and other standard features.

All of the people above, as well as the others that were not chosen, went through a tough screening process to make sure that their homeownership will be successful.

This program we have introduced is tangible. It gets results. And it spends federal money where it is meant to be spent, on the people of Troy.

Have a great weekend, it certainly is going to be a beautiful one.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy